

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Fifteen "One-minutes" Per Side	

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### **Floor Schedule and Procedure**

- **Suspension Bills:** Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
  - 1) H.Res. 838** - Welcoming His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI on his first apostolic visit to the United States as Amended (Rep. McCotter – Foreign Affairs)
  - 2) H.Res. 865** - Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the March 2007 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development makes an important contribution to the understanding of the high levels of crime and violence in the Caribbean, and that the United States should work with Caribbean countries to address crime and violence in the region (Rep. Clarke - Foreign Affairs)
  - 3) H.R. 5489** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office". (Rep. Wittman - Oversight and Government Reform)
  - 4) H.R. 5472** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building". (Rep. Visclosky - Oversight and Government Reform)
  - 5) H.R. 5395** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11001 Dunklin Drive in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "William 'Bill' Clay Post Office Building". (Rep. Carnahan - Oversight and Government Reform)
  - 6) H.Res. 1038** - Recognizing the fifth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security and honoring the Department's employees for their extraordinary efforts and contributions to protect and secure our Nation (Rep. Thompson (MS) – Homeland Security)

**7) H.Res. 1082** - Recognizing the plumbing industry and supporting the goals and ideas of “National Plumbing Industry Week” (Rep. Velazquez – Small Business)

- **Postponed Suspension vote:** At some point today, the House will vote on the following Suspension bill, which was debated on Tuesday:

**1) H.Res. 1077** - Calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedoms of all Tibetans, and for other on Tibet (Rep. Pelosi – Foreign Affairs)

- **H. Res. 1084–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2016 - The National Landscape Conservation System Act (Rep. Hastings (FL)- Rules):**

The structured rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Alcee Hastings, and consideration will proceed as follows:

- One hour of debate on the rule.
- Possible vote on a Democratic Motion ordering the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**
- Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes.**

- **H.R. 2016 - The National Landscape Conservation System Act (Rep. Grijalva – Natural Resources):** Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Natural Resources Committee Chair Rep. Nick J. Rahall, or his designee, and will proceed as follows:

- One hour of debate on the bill.
- Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
- Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
- Vote on passage of the bill.

## **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

### **H.R. 2016 - THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT** *(Rep. Grijalva – Natural Resources)*

The Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 262 million surface acres and approximately 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, predominantly located in 11 contiguous western states and Alaska. Unlike the National Park Service (NPS), the BLM is tasked with a "multiple-use" mandate meaning that, while some BLM land is managed for conservation purposes, other BLM areas are managed for energy production, timber, grazing, public recreation, and other uses.

Between 1946 and 1996, large national monuments, designated on BLM land under the Antiquities Act, were removed from BLM management and included within the National Park System. In 2000, Former Interior Secretary Babbitt established within the BLM the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) as a framework to tie BLM's conservation units together into a larger conservation system, thus stopping the loss of conservation lands to the NPS. The NLCS includes approximately 26 million acres, or about 10%, of the land administered by the BLM. The System encompasses more than 800 units, including all National Scenic and Historic Trails, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness study areas managed by the agency. Each NLCS unit was established by Congress or Presidential Proclamation and is managed according to its enabling authority, as well as the Wilderness Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Federal Land Policy and Management Act, or other laws applicable to specific units. The NLCS itself has not been established in statute, however.

#### **Summary of H.R. 2016**

H.R. 2016 establishes the NLCS in statute and lists the components of the system. The legislation makes clear that each NLCS unit is to be managed in accordance with all laws applicable to that unit and in "a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated." The legislation includes an extensive savings clause making clear that nothing in the bill alters the underlying management authority governing the individual NLCS units.

The purpose of the bill is to grant the NLCS formal Congressional approval; hopefully raising the stature of the system and its components while also preventing a future Interior Secretary from abolishing the system administratively. In addition to the support of the Bush Administration, this legislation enjoys broad support from a diverse coalition that includes environmental groups, the American Hiking Society, National Council of Churches, Boone and Crockett Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Wildlife Federation, and the Outdoor Industry Association.

## **Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 2016**

- 1. Grijalva (AZ):** The amendment reiterates that nothing in the bill shall impede efforts by the Department of Homeland Security to secure the borders of the United States. (10 minutes)
- 2. Cannon (UT):** The amendment provides that the National Landscape Conservation System Act does not create an independent federal legal cause of action based on inclusion in the System. (10 minutes)
- 3. Bishop, Rob (UT):** The amendment strikes the preamble to the establishment of the National Landscape Conservation System. (10 minutes)
- 4. Bishop, Rob (UT):** The amendment strikes Section 3(c)(2) and inserts language directing the Interior Secretary to manage the system in accordance with each applicable law (including regulations) relating to each component of the system included under subsection (b). (10 minutes)
- 5. Bishop, Rob (UT):** The amendment provides that inclusion in the National Landscape Conservation System does not additionally restrict or hinder energy development within the System. (10 minutes)
- 6. Altmire (PA)/Carney (PA):** The amendment provides that the bill does not in any way limit access for hunting, fishing, trapping or recreational shooting on the 27 million acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It also provides that H.R. 2016 does not in any way infringe on a state's right to manage, control or regulate its hunting, fishing, trapping and recreational shooting activities on these lands. (10 minutes)
- 7. Pearce (NM):** The amendment provides that inclusion in the National Landscape Conservation System does not affect existing grazing rights or operations on those Bureau of Land Management Lands. (10 minutes)
- 8. Walden (OR):** The amendment strikes the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (PL 106-399) from the bill. (10 minutes)

## **Quote of the Day**

"Democracy is the only system that persists in asking the powers that be whether they are the powers that ought to be." -Sydney J. Harris